

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 5 as follows:

One attempt at eliminating such end-forming operations was disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,781,400 to Cunningham. The Cunningham reference[s] teaches a quick connect tube coupling using a two-piece tubular seal member placed over a male member for providing the effect of two O-rings, without requiring any special end-forming operation. Cunningham discloses the tubular seal member including a metal tubular member having a rubber material molded onto one end thereof. The tubular seal member is sandwiched between a male tubular member and a female tubular member. The rubber material includes inwardly extending beads and an axial portion for sealing axially against the female tubular member and for sealing radially against the male tubular member.

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on line 11 of page 5 as follows:

While the Cunningham reference enables elimination of end-forming requirements for tubular connections, it has a few drawbacks. For example, the rubber material is not positively interlocked with the underlying metal tubular member and therefore may more easily become separated therefrom. Additionally, the rubber material seals only axially, and radially inwardly, which is quite unlike how traditional O-rings seal. Traditional O-rings seal both radially inwardly and outwardly, and thereby better center the male tubular fitting within the female fitting. Accordingly, with Cunningham there is no continuity of the rubber sealing surface from a radial surface on the male tubular fitting to a radial surface in the female tubular fitting.